

What is claimed is:

1. A method for generating electronic keys from two integers a, b, the method comprising a step of verifying the co-primeness of said numbers a, b,  
5 which includes the following operations:

A) - calculating the modular exponentiation  $a^{\lambda(b)} \bmod b$ , where  $\lambda$  is the Carmichael function,

B) - verifying that this modular exponentiation is equal to 1,

C) - retaining the pair a, b when equality is verified, and

10 D) - reiterating operations A and B with another pair of numbers when the modular expansion is not equal to 1.

2. A method for generating electronic keys according to Claim 1, wherein:

15 - an integer number b with a given length is chosen and is stored in memory,

- an integer number a is drawn at random,

-  $a^{\lambda(b)} \bmod b$  is calculated,

- it is verified that  $a^{\lambda(b)} = 1 \bmod b$  (or  $a^{\lambda(b)} \bmod b = 1$ ),

20 - the number a is stored in memory in the case where equality is verified,  
- the above steps are reiterated with another number a when equality is not verified.

3. A method for generating electronic keys according to Claim 1, wherein the number b is predetermined, and the value  $\lambda(b)$  is calculated in advance and stored in memory.

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4. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of encrypting and/or decrypting information by means of a public key cryptography protocol, using said integers as the encryption and decryption keys.

5. A method for generating RSA or El Gamal or Schnorr cryptographic keys, comprising the steps of:

- A) - selecting two integers  $a$ ,  $b$  as candidates for the keys;
- B) - calculating the modular exponentiation  $a^{\lambda(b)} \bmod b$ , where  $\lambda$  is the Carmichael function,
- 10 C) - verifying that this modular exponentiation is equal to 1,
- D) - retaining the pair  $a$ ,  $b$  when equality is verified, and
- E) - reiterating steps B and C with another pair of numbers when the modular expansion is not equal to 1.

15 6. A portable electronic device comprising an arithmetic processor and an associated program memory that are capable of effecting modular exponentiations, and further including a program for verifying the co-primeness of integer numbers of given length, which performs the following operations:

- A) - calculating the modular exponentiation  $a^{\lambda(b)} \bmod b$ , where  $\lambda$  is the Carmichael function,
- 20 B) - verifying that this modular exponentiation is equal to 1,
- C) - storing the pair  $a$ ,  $b$  in the arithmetic processor when equality is verified, and
- D) - reiterating steps A and B with another pair of integers when
- 25 equality is not verified.

7. A portable electronic device according to Claim 6, wherein the number  $b$  is predetermined and the value  $\lambda(b)$  is calculated in advance and stored in a memory.

- 5           8. A portable electronic device according to Claim 6, wherein said portable electronic device comprises a chip card with a microprocessor.

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